purpose of surrender to any international tribunal, without the express consent of the other country, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties. Further, neither country shall even cooperate with any third party or country to effect the surrender of persons of the other country to any international tribunal.

Kolkata-Dhaka bus Service

3094. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service soon as per the agreement between India and Bangladesh reached two years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the difficulties faced by both the sides for the delay in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Kolkata-Dhaka bus service was started in 1999.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Refund of social security payments

3095. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether India has asked USA to refund social security payments;

(b) if so, the response of US Government in this regard; and

(c) the total amount of payments to be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India has offered to enter into a Social Security Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with the U.S. As per preliminary estimates, Indian professionals contribute about US $ 500 million annually to the US Social Security Programme. So far no agreement could be reached on the subject.